



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

**MANCHESTER MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL WEAPONS CHARGE**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka, and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Clifford Ellston, announced that Eugene Svitak, formerly of Manchester, pled guilty to federal weapons charges.

On November 6, 2003, a federal grand jury returned an indictment against SVITAK charging him with being a convicted felon in possession of three firearms on October 1, 2003 in Manchester, New Hampshire.

The charges were the result of an investigation conducted into various crimes in the city of Manchester. During the course of the investigation, Svitak admitted to possessing two rifles and a handgun at his residence. SVITAK had been previously convicted of attempted arson and second degree assault, both felonies, in New York in 1981. Convicted felons are prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition under federal law.

A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for May 24, 2005. SVITAK faces a maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

U. S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of dangerous felons is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Manchester Police Department. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Helen White Fitzgibbon.